

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The paragraph commencing at page 8, line 3 is amended as follows:

Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram showing configurations of a duplex communication system according to a first embodiment of the present invention. Figure 2 is a schematic block diagram showing internal configurations of a transmission device according to the first embodiment. As shown I Fig. 1, the duplex communication system of the embodiment includes high-order transmission devices A0 and A1, transmission devices B0 and B1 and low-order transmission devices C0 and C1 on transmission paths. The transmission devices B0 and B1 are connected to the high-order transmission devices A0 and A1 and to the low-order transmission devices C0 and C1. All the transmission devices A0 to C1 have same configurations. As shown in Fig. 2, ~~except the transmission devices A0 and A1,~~ each of the transmission devices ~~A0-B0~~ to C1 has a received data selecting and multiplexing section SEL/MUX, a memory section MEM, a transmission path interfacing section INF, a controller CTL and a load detecting section DECT.